

Speaking Notes - Media Scrum

Sgt. Paul Manaigre

Median of Highway 75 at PR 243

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

- Good morning
- On the morning of February 10, 2022, semi-trailers, farm implements, and passenger vehicles began blocking the Canada/US border at the Emerson port of entry.
- RCMP officers from Emerson and Morris detachments and Manitoba RCMP Divisional Liaison Officers immediately attended the scene, and began to work with the demonstrators to find a peaceful resolution.
- Through dialogue with the demonstrators, emergency vehicles, including police vehicles, as well as some agriculture transports and other critical goods were allowed through the blockade.
- Apart from these select vehicles, all four lanes of Highway 75 at Provincial Road 243 remained blocked.
- The number of vehicles taking part in the blockade has fluctuated throughout the past six days. At its peak, the RCMP estimates there were approximately 75 vehicles.

- For vehicles that weren't able to get through, RCMP officers diverted traffic to alternate border crossings in Manitoba.
- As this highway is prone to road closures due to blizzards in the winter, and flooding in the spring, our officers are well versed in alternate paths of travel for commercial and passenger vehicles.
- Throughout the past six days, our officers continued to use open communication, and a measured and tempered approach.
- This continuous dialogue between our officers and the demonstrators enabled us to reach a resolution yesterday.
- It is our expectation, that at noon today, just an hour and a half from now, that the remaining demonstrators will begin to move out of the area and that full access to Emerson Port of Entry will be restored.
- The Manitoba RCMP will be coordinating and escorting the remaining vehicles out of this area to ensure a safe and orderly departure. This is for the safety of all involved.

- Our officers will remain in the area to ensure that the highway and the border to the United States remains open and accessible to all travellers.
- We would like to thank our partners, Canada Border Services Agency and US Customs and Border Protection who provided assistance to the Manitoba RCMP throughout the duration of the blockade to ensure cross country border traffic was accommodated at other ports of entry.
- Thank you.